

in Lineover Wood

Management

The wood had a long history of coppicing until early this century. Trees were cut regularly near the base, allowed to re-grow and harvested every 7-10 years, each producing a number of long straight poles. With the help of local volunteers, coppicing has been reintroduced along the edges of rides. Wild flowers have responded to the extra light and butterflies are flourishing. Some other areas of broadleaves are being carefully thinned but leaving a continuous canopy. The woodland on the steepest slope is being left to develop naturally.

From the late 1940s to early 1970s the lower slopes were extensively felled and replanted with conifers. We are restoring these areas to broadleaved woodland through a steady process of thinning, felling and regeneration, although some specimen conifers will be retained.

Local community involvement

We are extremely grateful for the support of the local group of volunteers who work in the wood helping with tasks such as coppicing, ride clearance, hedge laying and encouraging the diversity of flora and fauna. Weekly butterfly counts are carried out on behalf of Butterfly Conservation.

If you would like to become involved please contact us at the address on the back of this leaflet.

Other Trust woods to visit in Gloucestershire area: Barber Wood - Coberley; Bigsweir Wood - St. Briavels; Causeway Grove - Redbrook; Churchdown Hill West and East - Churchdown; Coaley Wood - Uley; Laycombe Wood - Wotton-under-Edge; Parish and Oldhills Wood - Chalford; Penn Wood - Kings Stanley; Stanley Wood - Kings Stanley

We hope you enjoy your visit



Hedge laying on the eastern boundary All photos: WTPL/Paul Bunton



Want to know more about the Trust?

Lineover Wood is owned and managed by the Woodland Trust, the UK's leading conservation charity concerned solely with safeguarding existing woods and the creation of new woodland. If you would like to know more about us or help in our aim of "keeping woodland alive" please phone us on **01476 581111**, e-mail us at enquiries@woodland-trust.org.uk or visit our website at www.woodland-trust.org.uk

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Lineover Wood



Situated on the Cotswold scarp above Charlton Kings on the outskirts of Cheltenham, Lineover Wood has been owned by the Woodland Trust since 1986. Sloping steeply down from the southern to the northern boundary, this 50-hectare (123-acre) ancient semi-natural woodland and Site of Special Scientific Interest provides a variety of very valuable habitats for wildlife.

You are welcome to walk in this wood at any time.



Above: Wood anemone in spring
Cover: one of the 'Heritage' beeches - the third largest in the UK

History

Lineover means "lime bank" in Anglo-Saxon and the wood was first recorded under this name around 800 AD. The wood was part of the Dowdeswell Estate for many years and was bought by Cheltenham Borough Council in the late nineteenth century, as part of the catchment area for Dowdeswell reservoir which supplies water to Cheltenham. The Severn Trent Water Authority bought the estate and wood in 1974 and then sold the wood to the Woodland Trust twelve years later. The wood is also known locally as 'Redwood' a name given to the northern end of the site in the nineteenth century.

Broadleaf Tree Species

The woodland consists of mixed broadleaf woodland primarily, ash, oak, lime, beech, birch and rowan with shrub species of hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, field maple, willow and elder. At the northern end of the wood a mixture of broadleaf trees have been planted on the 15 acres of land that were acquired in 1990. The species are predominantly oak, field maple and native shrubs.

Special Features

An important feature of this ancient woodland is the presence of huge old large-leaved lime trees, one of Britain's rarest trees. If you walk along the east to west part of the Cotswold Way you will come across a lime stool (coppiced in 1993), which is thought to be at least 1,000 years old. Its age is attributable to the regular 'coppice' management it has received over the years which has prolonged its life. This makes it a valuable habitat for wildlife and was a productive source of wood poles for local people.

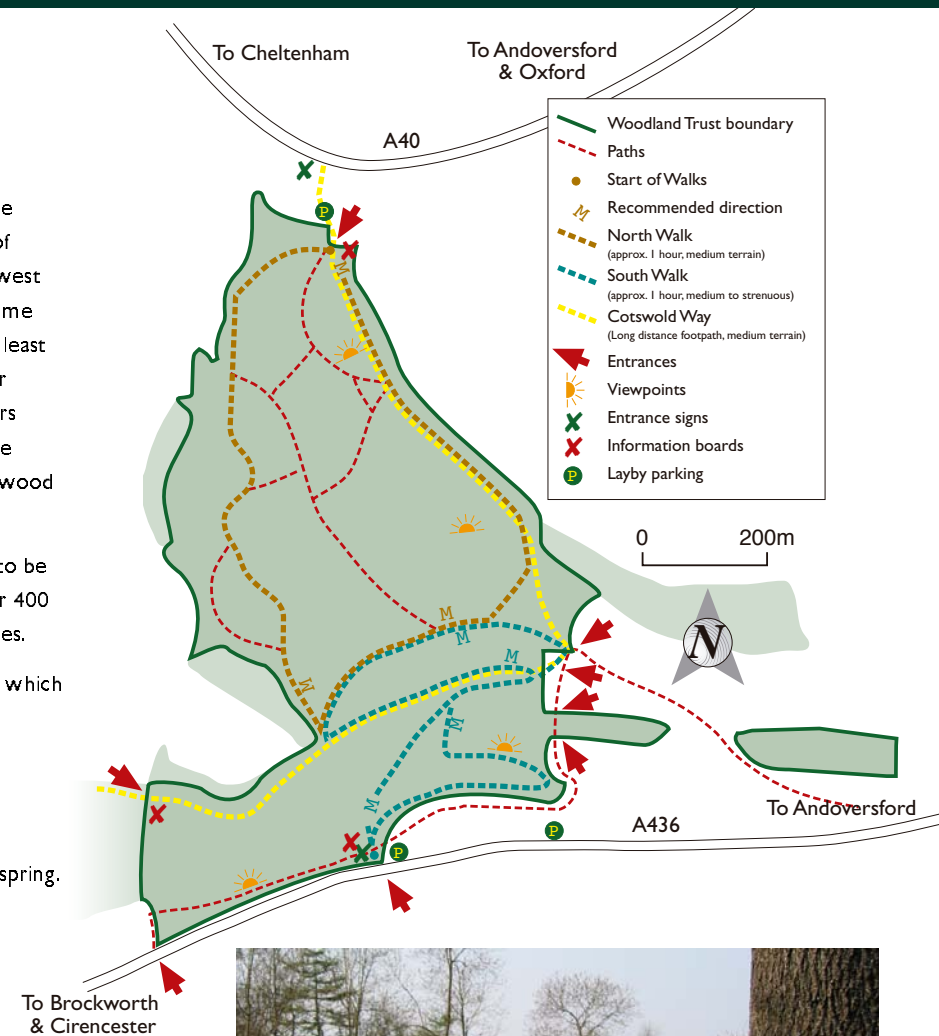
There is another spectacular tree which is thought to be the third largest beech in England, estimated at over 400 years of age with a circumference of around 6 metres.

The wood also has a number of freshwater springs which flow throughout the year and add to the woodland biodiversity.

Flora and Fauna

The wood has a colourful display of flowers in the spring. Mixed among the carpets of bluebells and dog's mercury, you can find notable woodland flowers including lily-of-the-valley, toothwort and angular Solomon's seal.

Many moths and butterflies have been recorded including the silver washed fritillary, as well as some uncommon beetles. The abundant insect life attracts a variety of birds such as the spotted flycatcher, green and great spotted woodpeckers and treecreepers. Boxes for tawny owls have been installed by the Hawk and Owl Trust and are monitored by the volunteer group.



Walking through one of the managed glades